

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 HA-05 DOE-15

SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00

/102 W

-----053633 201346Z /14

R 191020Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 298

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2256

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ID, US

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE COMMENTS ON VICE

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDONESIA

1. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE HAERUDDIN TASNING INFORMED ME DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON HIM THAT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WAS VERY WELL PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDONESIA. NOT ONLY HAD THE VICE PRESIDENT STRONGLY REITERATED U.S. SUPPORT FOR INDONESIA'S NEEDS IN THE FIELDS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HE HAD ALSO STRESSED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ASEAN. ALL OF THIS HAD BEEN REGARDED AS EXTREMELY HELPFUL BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. TASNING MENTIONED THAT THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAD ARISEN DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, AND REFERRED TO A CONFIDENTIAL

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SESSION IN WHICH A NUMBER OF INDONESIAN OPPOSITION LEADERS HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. ACCORDING TO TASNING, EVEN BUYUND NASUTION HAD EXPRESSED CRITICISM OF THE U.S. APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS MIGHT CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN INDONESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, TASNING STRESSED, THIS HAD BEEN IN A PRIVATE SESSION

AND IN NO WAY INTERFERED WITH THE OVERALL FAVORABLE
IMPRESSION CREATED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT IN INDONESIA.

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR CONVERSATION, TASNING
INFORMED ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD PLANNED TO APPOINT
HIM GOVERNOR OF SOUTH SULAWESI. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT
SUHARTO HAD INTERVENED AND ASKED HIM TO STAY ON AS AMBAS-
SADOR TO SINGAPORE FOR ANOTHER YEAR. AT THE END OF THIS
PERIOD HE STILL HOPED TO RECEIVE HIS APPOINTMENT AS
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH SULAWESI, WHICH IS HIS HOME PROVINCE.
HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO STAY ON DUE TO
SINGAPORE'S IMPORTANCE AS A STOPPING POINT FOR SENIOR
INDONESIANS TRAVELLING TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND
BECAUSE OF SINGAPORE'S ROLE AS AN ECONOMIC CENTER OF
IMPORTANCE TO INDONESIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE MENTIONED
THE BATAM ISLAND DEVELOPEMNT PROJECT, INDICATING THAT AN
INDONESIAN-KUWAITI FEASIBILITY STUDY IS UNDERWAY FOR AN
OIL REFINERY ON BATAM. HE BELIEVED, THOUGH, THAT PROGRESS
ON BATAM WOULD PROBABLY BE SLOW DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF
INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE ISLAND -- ONLY A PORT AND A
FEW ROADS ARE AS YET COMPLETED.

HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP02256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780213-0103
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780539/aaaabgzd.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a57f179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2633666
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE COMMENTS ON VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDONESIA
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ID, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (TASNING, HAERUDDIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a57f179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014